



ALLEGANY COUNTY, MARYLAND

Office of The Board of Commissioners

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BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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April 8, 2016

The Hon. Pete K. Rahn, Maryland Transportation Secretary
Maryland Department of Transportation
7201 Corporate Center Drive
Hanover, Maryland 21076

RE: Allegany County 2016 Transportation Priorities

Dear Transportation Secretary Rahn:

The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County, in cooperation with the municipalities of Allegany County is pleased to have the opportunity to present its transportation priorities to your department for the FY 2017 – 2021 Consolidated Transportation Program (CTP). The County's transportation priorities focus on system preservation, safety and supporting economic development. The County appreciates your willingness to have face-to-face meetings to move projects forward efficiently to better serve the needs of our constituents.

To be consistent with the Chapter 725 process, representatives from the County and the municipalities discussed and prioritized the projects at a coordination meeting held Monday, February 29, 2016. The Board of Commissioners, as a part of the agenda on Thursday, March 10, 2016 endorsed the 2016 priority projects. On behalf of Allegany County, the Town of Barton, the City of Cumberland, the City of Frostburg, the Town of Lonaconing, the Town of Luke, the Town of Midland, and the Town of Westernport, we would like to submit our projects as follows:

1. Preliminary Engineering Funding for US 220 Project

Allegany County supports to move the US 220 Project forward by with Preliminary Engineering funding. This represents Maryland's portion of a larger joint study from I-68 to Corridor H in West Virginia. The US 220 Project Planning Study is underway consisting of detailed engineering work to determine the number of alternatives that will be considered. Through this process, alternatives will ultimately be narrowed down to one alignment. This corridor is a growing residential area with some strip commercial development. Many vacant buildable lots exist in the corridor that could be developed for residential use. The development of a multilane highway in this area would ease the current conflict between local and through traffic, improve safety and encourage economic vitality in Allegany County.

2. Greene Street Rehabilitation & Streetscape Improvements

Greene Street is one of the City's oldest streets and is in need of extensive and long-deferred structural (base and subbase improvements), roadway surface rehabilitation, and pedestrian, bicycle, ADA, and streetscape upgrades. Greene Street, formally US Route 220 and prior to that it was part of the National Road, is in need of significant rehabilitation to handle the traffic on this West Side arterial street. Lack of local funds as well as any funds for road improvements have prevented the City from being able to do anything on this street since the days of Urban Systems Federal Aid sharing through the Maryland SHA. The portion of Greene Street between Baltimore Street and Lee Street has been re-designated as part of the National Road Scenic Byway, as part of its campaign to replace scenic byway signage along the route. The City is looking to implement the Greene Street Complete Street Plan to improve the corridor for all modes of transportation. The Greene Street Complete Street Plan (financed by the Cumberland Area MPO) was completed in 2015. The plan provides a vision for a safer, more attractive and economically viable street spanning from Baltimore Street to the end of City maintenance at I-68 Exit 42.

3. MD 936, Grant Street Stormwater and Safety Improvements Project

The proposed project would include improvements to 1,300 linear feet of storm sewer to convey separated stormwater from Main Street (US 40) and Grant Street (MD 936) to a proper outfall. Currently, stormwater is collected in 13 inlets on Grant Street and Main Street near Grant Street and enters into a sanitary sewer. The design and construction of a new stormwater system by Maryland State Highway Administration is necessary in order for the City to be successful in eliminating combined sewer overflows, (CSOs). These 13 Maryland State Highway Administration inlets significantly contribute to Frostburg's CSOs. The City is under an MDE Consent Decree and Court Order to eliminate its CSOs. The project will improve the safety characteristics for motorists by removing excess sheet flow due to surface runoff during periods of heavy rain or major snow melts, as there is a steep grade from Main Street to the bottom of the hill near Blair

Street. Additional safety and pedestrian enhancements such as ADA compliant sidewalks and crosswalks would be part of the project. Maryland SHA and the City are currently reviewing an MOU in which MD SHA will partner with the City of Frostburg in the completion of this project and provide the funding to address the aspects of the project for which MD SHA is responsible.

4. MD135 Safety & Structural Improvements in Luke, Maryland

MD 135 spanning from the intersection with WV 46 (to Bloomington) to intersection of MD 36 in Westernport is in need of improvements. These improvements include road geometry, stabilization of cliffs along the roadway, drainage, lighting, safety signage, and surface rehabilitation. In April 2015 this area was affected by a significant rock fall which left the roadway operating with one-way traffic for a quarter-mile section for a period of time. This has been cleaned up but not fully addressed. In fact, another section of road experienced another rock fall in January 2016. The narrow roadway, wet weather and vibration from industrial truck traffic make this issue a concern for the Town of Luke and all industries that travel this road. Widening and adjusting the roadway geometry near Grant Street and the filter plant has been a major safety concern. The parts of the roadway which parallels the rock cliff are in need of improved lighting, and stormwater management. These improvements would reduce hazards and collisions to the approximate 6,000 vehicles that travel this portion of State Highway. The Town of Luke, Maryland, and Allegany County find these improvements necessary to keep all vehicular and pedestrian traffic safe.

5. US 220 Bowling Green Drainage Improvements

Allegany County requests the State Highway Administration to obligate Engineering and Construction funding for drainage improvements in Bowling Green along US 220. The Bowling Green community experienced significant flooding of structures and property during the June 12, 2014 flood. The Bowling Green Flooding Hydrology/Hydraulics Study was prepared in response to the numerous citizen complaints and the need for flood evaluation and remediation. Allegany County has received the H&H study for review in April 2015 and has since provided comments and additional information to develop a preliminary plan for stormwater management facility improvements within the US 220 right-of-way and throughout the Bowling Green community. A preliminary plan presentation to the public is tentatively scheduled for 2016.

6. MD 135 Safety Barrier at Westernport Elementary

The Town of Westernport would like to request construction funding to build a safety barrier wall 350 feet long between MD 135 and the Westernport Elementary School playground. Westernport Elementary is located along MD 135 with a wrought iron fence as the barrier between the playground and ball field and MD 135. In April 2015 there was a tractor trailer accident on MD 135 and the driver lost control and ran into a gas station less than 1000 feet from the school.

7. Allegany County Transit Passenger Facility

Allegany County Transit is requesting funding for construction of a new passenger facility on Frederick Street. Allegany County Transit's main stop location is in Queen City Plaza, a privately owned shopping plaza in Downtown Cumberland. Over the years the plaza owners have removed the shelter and benches at this stop. Allegany County Transit is requesting funding to relocate the system's main passenger facility away from the store fronts and place along Frederick Street. The proposed relocation includes passenger amenities such as signage, shelters, waste cans, benches and construction of designated bus parking for boarding and unloading passengers, ADA compliant sidewalks and crossings to access the area.

8. Allegany County Transit Vehicle Replacement Funding & Procurement Support

Allegany County Transit is requesting funding for five replacement buses and support for procurement of these vehicles. Allegany County Transit's fleet is in great need of turn-over. The expenses of maintaining an aging fleet is becoming greater than the cost of replacing the vehicles. Frequent breakdowns are threatening to disrupt service. We are also requesting the MTA would get a small bus and heavy duty bus procurement contract to purchase from, since the Transit staff lacks the personnel to meet all of the procurement requirements of the FTA.

9. Allegany County Transit Operating Funding

Allegany County Transit operates fixed route service and ADA Demand Response in Allegany County, Maryland. The Transit's mission is to provide the citizens and visitors of the Allegany County service area with safe, reliable, courteous, efficient and clean transportation. Continued support for operations funds will help us achieve our mission.

10. Baltimore Street Bridge Rehabilitation

The City, County, and State have put effort into this project, but unfortunately the City is currently lacking the necessary local funds. The project is requested because the City is hopeful that local funds can be available in the future. In fact, the City's financial position has improved in recent years, and the City desires to more definitively update the project cost and define the cost-sharing parameters. The Baltimore Street Bridge over Wills Creek needs a total deck replacement. The bridge is a vital transportation link between the main downtown business district, the West Side residential area, suburban areas along U.S. Route 220 south in Allegany County. The bridge is part of the detour route when I-68 is disrupted.

11. MD 36 Sidewalk Safety Improvements in Lonaconing

The sidewalks along MD 36 through Lonaconing are a safety hazard for pedestrians. Several locations along MD 36 the curb height is substandard and increasing the chances of vehicles ability to veer onto the sidewalks and strike a pedestrian. Route 36 has approximately 9,000 vehicles passing through this section daily. Lonaconing is requesting the sidewalk/curbing height be increased to normal safety standards to reduce the likelihood of vehicles mounting the sidewalk and injuring pedestrians. Sections of this project will also need improvements for ADA compatibility.

12. Braddock Road (MD 736), Center Street, Bowery Street and Park Avenue Intersection Improvements

The Braddock Road (MD 736), Center Street, Bowery Street and Park Avenue intersection serves a major pedestrian thoroughfare for University students and as a gateway to the Frostburg Central Business District for those entering the City via Interstate 68, Exit 33 (Braddock/Midlothian Road). The purpose of this project is to reduce vehicular conflicts, improve pedestrian safety, and enhance the appearance of the City. The project will include changes to traffic patterns, narrowing of a one-way street, new pedestrian crossings, construction of new sidewalks, and additional lighting.

13. Maryland Avenue Improvements between Short and Lamont Streets

This section of Maryland Avenue represents the essential traffic link between the recently completed Rolling Mill (Maryland Avenue) and Virginia Avenue Corridor projects. Planned improvement work includes street widening and resurfacing, retaining wall reconstruction and reinforcement, ADA and sidewalk improvements, and streetscaping.

14. MD 135 Access Improvement in Westernport

At peak times the traffic in the vicinity of Church Street (MD 135) is backed up in both lanes due to access to the following businesses: McDonald's, The Dollar General, and Fair Price Market. The Town of Westernport would like to request MDOT to obligate money to improve the access and traffic flow in this area.

15. MD 135 (Pratt Street) Pavement Improvements

The Town of Luke requests that the State of Maryland consider Pratt Street (MD 135), for pavement repair. The Town would like to see this area improved for public safety, and to improve quality of service in the area by providing better road surfaces for general and industry-related freight traffic.

16. LaVale to Great Allegheny Passage Connection

Allegheny County requests the State to conduct a study to determine a safe bike and pedestrian connection from lower LaVale to the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP.) The LaVale Streetscape project provides bike lanes and sidewalks through upper LaVale to Long Drive. A study is needed to find the most desirable path to provide connection for alternative transportation in lower LaVale.

17. Industrial Boulevard (MD 51) Bicycle/Pedestrian Improvements

Sections of Industrial Boulevard in Cumberland currently have a level of service of F for bicycles, which are legally entitled to use the highway. Sidewalk and crosswalk facilities are provided in part, but may not be complete. Additional improvements are needed in order to more properly comply with current Complete Streets standards and to ensure public safety for pedestrians and bicyclists seeking to utilize the corridor.

18. Eckhart Pedestrian Connection to MD 36 and US 40

Old National Pike (MD Alt 40) connects US 40 (National Highway) to MD 36 (Lower Georges Creek Road) through the area known as Eckhart. Allegheny County is requesting MDOT to obligate funding for planning, design and construction of a pedestrian connection to Eckhart. The purpose of this project is to provide safe pedestrian amenities in Eckhart connecting to Mountain Ridge High School and the businesses in Frostburg.

19. Mount Savage Road (MD 36) Streetscape

Allegheny County requests streetscape improvements on Mount Savage Road (MD 36) from New School Road to the intersection of Iron Rail Street at the east end of town. Improvements should consider pedestrian accommodations and furnishings, landscaping, and lighting. We feel these improvements will further revitalize the community of Mount Savage. We are aware of the challenges associated with the project, but are hopeful for any improvements that can be made along the state route.

20. US 40 Main, Center and Depot Streets Intersection Improvement Projects

Main Street (US 40) is the major thoroughfare in the City of Frostburg and is central to the Frostburg Business District. The intersection of Main with Center and Depot Streets is offset and sightlines are obscured by changes in grade and on-street parking. In addition, Center Street is a major connection to Main Street from the campus of Frostburg State University and the surrounding neighborhoods. Depot Street is used by tens of thousands of pedestrians each year, many of them tourists traveling to Frostburg by way of the Western Maryland Scenic Railroad or the Great Allegheny Passage. This intersection improvement project will include the addition of sidewalk bump-outs and additional pedestrian markings and signage, which will both improve sightlines for motorists and improve safety for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Thank you for your consideration of these transportation priorities in Allegany County. We look forward to a productive partnership with the Maryland Department of Transportation and to actively participate in the development of the CTP to plan and implement these projects.

If you need any clarifications about our recommendations, please contact us.

Sincerely,
The Board of Commissioners of Allegany County



President, Jacob C. Shade



Commissioner Creade V. Brodie, Jr.



Commissioner William R. Valentine

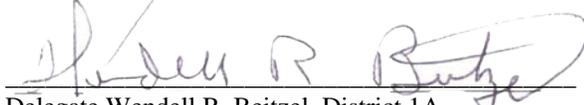
Allegany County Delegation



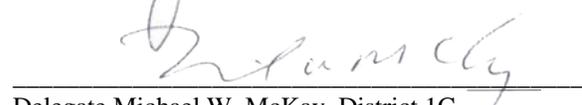
Senator George C. Edwards, District 1



Delegate Jason C. Buckel, District 1B



Delegate Wendell R. Beitzel, District 1A



Delegate Michael W. McKay, District 1C

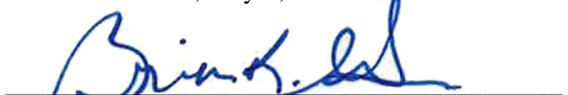
Municipal Elected Officials of Allegany County



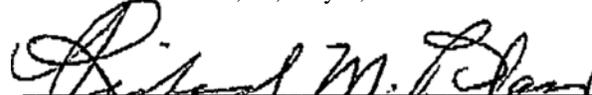
Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton



Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke



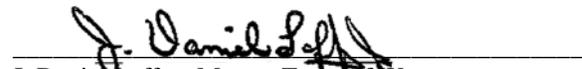
Brian K. Grim, Mayor, City of Cumberland



Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland



W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg



J. Daniel Laffey, Mayor, Town of Westernport



John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing

Enclosures:

Project Questionnaire and maps, for all projects

Cc:

- The Hon. George C. Edwards, Maryland Senate
- The Hon. Jason C. Buckel, Maryland House of Delegates
- The Hon. Wendell R. Beitzel, Maryland House of Delegates
- The Hon. Michael W. McKay, Maryland House of Delegates
- Daniel A. Colmer, Mayor, Town of Barton
- Brian K. Grim, Mayor, City of Cumberland
- W. Robert Flanigan, Mayor, City of Frostburg
- John W. Coburn, Mayor Town of Lonaconing

- Edward E. Clemons, Jr., Mayor, Town of Luke
- Richard M. Blair, Mayor, Town of Midland
- J. Daniel Laffey, Mayor, Town of Westernport
- Bill Atkinson, Maryland Department of Planning
- Anthony Crawford, District 6 State Highway Administration
- Matt Baker, State Highway Administration
- Lyn Erickson, Manager, Regional Planning, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation

Ian Beam, Regional Planner, Office of Planning and Capital Programming, Maryland Department of Transportation
Elizabeth Kreider, Director Office of Local Transit Support, Maryland Transit Administration
George Thornes, Regional Planner, Maryland Transit Administration
David Eberly, Administrator, Allegany County
Paul Kahl, Director, Public Works, Allegany County
Adam Patterson, Public Works, Allegany County
Roy Cool, Planner III/ MPO Coordinator
Siera Wigfield, Planner, Allegany County
David Dorsey, Planning Coordinator, Allegany County
John Difonzo, City Engineer, City of Cumberland
David Umling, Planner City of Cumberland
Elizabeth Stahlman, Director of Community Development, City of Frostburg
Robert Ketterman, Community Development Specialist, City of Frostburg
Aaron Wilt, Town Administrator, Lonaconing Maryland